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COUNTRY Southeast Pacific Islands	This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U. S. C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. 25X1A2g
SUBJECT Concept of a Pacific Federation	REPORT NO. [REDACTED] DATE DISTRIBUTED [REDACTED] NO. OF PAGES 4 NO. OF ENCLS. ELEMENT TO REPORT #
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The author of a little book <u>Introducing the British Pacific Islands</u> (prepared by the British Colonial Office) writes, "These divisions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are not racially watertight compartments, because centuries of migrations between islands all over the Pacific have resulted in a mixing of peoples. Thus there are purely Polynesian islands in the heart of Melanesia, and there are Melanesian colonies well inside the geographical boundaries of Polynesia and Micronesia." 2. The mid-Pacific Micronesians are an admixture of Polynesian and Mongolian. The Fijians are predominantly Melanesian, but many of them possess a Polynesian strain which is sometimes very strong. The little island-group of Rotuma, although part of the Crown Colony of Fiji, is Polynesian with a strong Mongolian strain. 3. Most of the island languages have borrowed words and expressions from one another, in the same way as English and other European languages have borrowed and still borrow among themselves. 4. There are a number of similarities in the life and society of the Pacific peoples. The book mentions several of them in its pages. (1. Breadfruit and payaws are common throughout the Pacific Islands. Pig is a desirable delicacy especially for Christmas.) 5. Most of the Pacific Islands remain undeveloped economically. Primitive life is still prevailing in many of the communities which the tourist agents describe as "idyll of the South Seas". Since they are under different administrations, their development cannot be uniformly progressive. They still lack in communications and mutual contacts. (2. A letter posted in Moscow reaches sometimes Suva earlier than one posted at Raratonga.) 6. The United Kingdom Government is now actively interested in the promotion of a Caribbean federation consisting of Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica including Windward and Leeward Islands. The continental UK territories that were invited to join the Federation-British Guiana and British Honduras-- seem to be not very enthusiastic for this scheme for reasons of their own. 7. A similar federal scheme can be successfully promoted by the UK Government for the British Pacific Islands. It has already created a federation of 	
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- 2 -

Central Africa. East African Federation is on the move. Why not a South Pacific Federation under the auspices of Britain? (3. Cook Island: Area 100 sq miles; Pop. 15,000. Products: citrus, pineapples, tomatoes. Gilbert & Ellice Island: Area 375 sq miles; Pop. 40,000. Products: pandanus palm. New Hebrides: Area 5,700 sq miles; Pop. 47,000. Products: cocoa, coffee, bananas, sugar cane, orange, Kauri pine. Niue: Area 100 sq miles; Pop. 4553. Products: bananas, kumalas. Solomons: Area 11,500 sq miles; Pop. 90,000. Products: rubber, sweet potatoes, pine apples, bananas, gold. W. Samoa: Area 1133 sq. miles; Pop. 70,000. Products: bananas, citrus, cocoa. There are other French and US possessions in the South West Pacific. All the islands without exception export copra and concas [sic, conch (?) / shell. The total population of all Pacific Islands is less than a million and the population of the British Pacific Islands is about half a million. Fiji area 7045; pop. 33,000; Products: gold, manganese, sugar, pineapples, bananas, etc. Tonga: Area 269; Pop. 47,000: Product: bananas.)

8. Smaller insular territories by becoming part of a bigger federation of their own become stronger as links in a chain. This will help them to break their shackles of isolation and loneliness. It will open the gateway for progress and advancement through the greater mutual contact, communication and education.
9. Fiji, New Hebrides, Solomons, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Cook, Phoenix and others including the smaller groups like Fanning, Tokelau, Santa Cruz, Mashiki, etc. may be included in this South West Pacific Islands Federation. Other territories like Samoa, Tonga and other groups may also be invited to join. It is a viable scheme.
10. A federal government consisting of these territories can be expected to take a greater and abiding interest in their economic, social and cultural progress. A government by the people for themselves has no other axe to grind. It can afford to pay good salaries for real experts to advise and guide them. At present most of the island administrations find it difficult to keep proper experts to serve them. For a small government it is too expensive.
11. The federal government will need guidance for a long time to come. And there is no other country better suited than the United Kingdom with its vast experience in colonial administration and good government. It has developed several backward colonies to full self government even in the so-called "dark" continent. It is now supplying the senior officers for the administration in most these island territories. It can still do the same service.
12. All these territories need economic development. Rain fall is plenty. The soil is very rich in most of the territories. Most of the economic crops have not been introduced to many of the islands. The exceptions are Fiji which produces sugar and Samoa which produces cocoa. Bananas have been recently introduced to these islands to cater for the market in New Zealand. There are vast tracts of land where coffee, rubber, tea and several other tropical products can be successfully grown. An overall scheme for the development of these islands, eliminating overlapping, and probing into new avenues, can be undertaken only by a federal government which can command respect in Wall Street and City to raise necessary money for capital expenditure.
13. Though there is no scope for big irrigation schemes, yet there are possibilities for smaller schemes to bring more land under cultivation. Phosphate, gold, manganese are already mined in great quantities. Iron, copper and zinc are found in the main island of the Fiji group. Proper survey has not been made even in the most economically advanced colony in these territories. When the work is undertaken it may reveal further mineral wealth.

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- 3 -

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14. A federal government can do a great deal which is not being done today. It can take greater responsibility and do things efficiently. It can venture in bigger schemes of development.
15. If these smaller territories get themselves attached to bigger countries, they can expect only Cinderella's treatment for they are small and can be ignored easily. Unless the bigger units find something for their own advantage in them (in the small outlying islands) they will not get any extra special treatment needed for their lifting up. And for the tropical islands of the Pacific there is no country nearby which has a population racially or culturally or in any other way similar to them to get themselves incorporated as a part of the bigger country.
16. The world war has shown that the islands people would not be left to their idyllic life of loneliness. If even the guns may not roar near them, the economy of the modern world is such that they have to seek outside contacts for their own better living. The principal cash crop is copra and they have to sell it to the world market. World price trends affect them more deeply than others for most of the islanders depend on this only cash crop.
17. They have acquired new tastes and wants. And for these they want good prices for their produce. Only a government of their own can plan and investigate alternatives to the present dependence on the prices of a single crop. Outside administrations can only think of giving some doles during the period of depression.
18. The South Pacific Federation being a union of maritime colonies, can raise a good navy. Some of the islanders like the Fijians have shown their mettle during the world war. The reputation of their young men in Malaya is very high. Given proper guidance and training, the islands people can give a formidable navy though small.
19. UK raised an efficient and powerful army in India which stood in good stead in the world wars and earlier. It was readily available on the European theatre when the bugle of war was sounded on the banks of the Rhine. A navy of the Pacific Islands Federation can play a similar if not better part on the Southwest Pacific.
20. Britain is principally a sea power. And so she can easily build a navy in the Federation which can be counted as a fortress in defense of the South West Pacific. Like the ancient Sri Vijaya of the Indies or the Malta of the medieval ages, the federation can play a historical role.
21. Fiji being a part of the Federation and also being the most advanced in the group can be expected to play a major part in the scheme. The Federation will not inherit such awkward problems as the "racial dilemma in Fiji" which appears to be a bugbear to some racial fireraisers. The Indian community which may become a majority community in course of years if the present racial rate of growth is maintained, will have to become only a minority in the Federation. Others--people of Kava and Taro--will be in the majority. They are closely related to each other racially as well as culturally.
22. Inauguration of the Federation will be a golden opportunity for the islands people to grow under proper guidance in their own way and genius not losing their valuable traditions and customs. UK has been helping these people individually to good government. Now she must come forward to help them to live together.
23. The Federation can stand on its own legs after a few years of help and assistance. The investors who are now shy to invest in little Fiji or a tiny Samoa or the small Solomons may become really interested in the

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- 4 -

Federation for it will consist of several territories and greater scope for their economic activity. These territories, though surrounded by vast sheets of water, still import canned fish, prawn and other sea products. If proper training is given in deep sea fishing, these can become an exporter of fish. Now the Japanese trawlers are slowly entering the Pacific waters. The potentialities are great and it can take additional population when developed. The average population of these islands is less than the average population of Fiji. The latter has only 45 per square mile.

24. The Pacific Islands Monthly, a publication from Sydney has pleaded for "United Samoa now" in an interesting editorial last January. I join with it and plead for a United Pacific Federation now for betterment of the Islands people. They are not stepping out of their infancy, and entering adolescence. They must be put together and taught together for self-government and advancement under the tutelage of UK.
25. In less than a century the Fijian has adjusted himself to a revolution in thought, habit and social conditions greater than the people of Europe underwent in 1,000 years. The transition is still incomplete and one of the great problems is now to find a way of ensuring that the Fijian is not called upon to sacrifice too much of his traditional way of life and his own splendid character in the struggle to meet the competitive conditions of today.
26. This applies to other islanders also. The best solution is to put them together under the guidance of the guardian who has brought them to adolescence from infancy.
27. Though these islanders possess some common traditions, they do not have any developed language. Hence English (not pidgin) can be made the language of the people in course of years. Fiji has shown that it is possible. At least English can be kept as the official language. Since these people live between English speaking peoples (Americans and Canadians on the East and Australians and New Zealanders on the West and South), it will be an advantage to them to adopt English as their own.
28. The presence of Indians in Fiji is a blessing to the indigenous Fijians. Indians from India were brought from India under indenture system in early nineties and the first decade of this century to work in the European owned estates in Fiji, as the local Fijians were not fit to work as they were too primitive then. The presence of Indians who are also of their color gave them the confidence that they could master the modern arts and science provided they were given the proper guidance and training. And UK has ably fulfilled this trust.
29. The federal territories can be developed at least to the level of Hawaii. Unless these territories are close together and work together under a common administration of their own they cannot expect appreciable improvement in their economic status and welfare. Here is an opportunity for UK.

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